



**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Hon. Mike Johnson  
House Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. John Boozman  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Nutrition, and Forestry  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Amy Klobuchar  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Nutrition, and Forestry  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. G.T. Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Tim Walberg  
Chairman  
House Committee on Education  
and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Bobby Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education  
and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Democratic Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, Democratic Leader Schumer, Chairman Boozman, Ranking Member Klobuchar, Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, Chairman Walberg, and Ranking Member Scott:

We, the undersigned national, state, and local organizations representing communities across the country, are deeply concerned about USDA's recent decisions to halt FY25 [Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants](#) and terminate FY25 federal funds for the [Local Food for Schools \(LFS\)](#) program.

Farm to School grants and LFS funds have enabled chronically [underfunded](#) school meal programs to offer students more fresh, local foods and promote consumption of these healthy choices. Their termination represents a significant threat to school nutrition programs, students' academic success, child health outcomes, childcare facilities, and local agriculture and workforce systems.

USDA provided notice that the Fiscal Year 2025 Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant Program has been [cancelled](#), meaning there will be no review of applications or award of \$10 million in grant funds this year. Similarly, states have been informed of the [termination](#) of federal funding agreements for LFS, eliminating an estimated [\\$660 million](#) that would have supported the purchase of healthy, local, and regional foods for schools and childcare facilities.

Farm to School Grants and LFS funds fuel vital connections across education, health, agriculture, and economic systems—investing in these programs energizes academic achievement, cultivates lifelong healthy eating habits, sustains local farmers and food producers, and drives regional food economies throughout America.

[Research](#) shows that school meals are the healthiest meals America's children eat. [Further studies show](#) that Farm to School programs improve student academic outcomes, test scores, and engagement in learning through experiential education that incorporates nutrition and agriculture into classroom curricula.

For every dollar invested in Farm to School programs, [studies across multiple states](#) confirm significant local economic multiplier effects. In Georgia, the economic output multiplier for farm-to-school production is 2.11, while in Minneapolis, it's 1.93—significantly higher than traditional food distribution channels.

Without these vital programs, school meal programs, already facing [critical funding shortfalls](#), will struggle to afford fresh, local foods amid rising costs. Children will lose access to nutrition education that shapes lifelong healthy eating habits. Local farmers will lose critical markets, and rural economies will suffer. The progress made in building

sustainable local food systems, creating jobs, and improving child nutrition will be significantly undermined.

We urge Congress to work with USDA to swiftly restore funding for both the Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grants and the Local Food for Schools program. The educational success, health outcomes, economic resilience, and food security of our communities depend on your leadership.

### **National Organizations**

National Farm to School Network	National Education Association
National Farmers Union	Association of School Business Officials
National Sustainable Agriculture	International (ASBO)
Coalition	AASA, The School Superintendents
American Heart Association	Association
Alliance for a Healthier Generation	FoodCorps
Share Our Strength	Center for Science in the Public Interest
National CACFP Association	Society for Nutrition Education and
Urban School Food Alliance	Behavior (SNEB)
Chef Ann Foundation	MomsRising
Nutrition For The Future; School Meals	Save the Children
That Rock	SOS Group Inc.
HCDE/Choice Partners Cooperative	Start Early
Shared Plate Strategies	Food Systems Collaborative
Eat Real	FLIK

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### **State Organizations**

New York School Nutrition Association	Oregon School Nutrition Association
North Dakota School Nutrition	Alaska School Nutrution Association
Association	Maryland School Nutrition Association
Oregon Farm to School Network	School Nutrition Association of Virginia
Maine School Nutrition Association	Oregon School Nutrition Association
Illinois School Nutrition Association	School Nutrition Association of
Minnesota School Nutrition Association	Connecticut
(MSNA)	Georgia School Nutrition Association

School Nutrition Association of Iowa  
Texas Association for School Nutrition  
Dr. Franklin Perkins School / RFK  
Community Alliance  
New Jersey School Nutrition Association  
Westview School Corp  
Freeman Education Association  
Rooted  
Texans Can Academy  
Hunger Free Vermont  
Bourbon Co  
Piazza Produce  
Dipping Spoon  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
Revolution Foods  
Texans Can Academy  
Illinois Early Childhood Outdoors  
Michigan Department of Education  
The Land Connection  
Hunger Free Colorado  
Illinois Stewardship Alliance  
Kansas Appleseed  
Hopkins ISD 270  
Hawai'i 'Ulu Cooperative  
Land to Hand Montana  
The Food Group  
Massachusetts Farm to School  
Rural Health Network of South Central  
New York  
Northeast Organic Farming Association of  
Vermont (NOFA-VT)

Brave Ground LLC  
Iowa Hunger Coalition  
Hawaii Public Health Institute  
Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs; State of  
Hawaii, Dept. of Education , Hawaii Child  
Nutrition Programs  
Full Plates Full Potential  
The Henry Ford  
Illinois Farm to School Network / Seven  
Generations Ahead  
Kupu 'Āina Corps  
Church Women United in New York State  
Alliance for Local Economic Prosperity  
Ka Ohana O Na Pua  
Alaska Food Policy Council  
Feeding the Carolinas  
CCE Suffolk  
Maryland Hunger Solutions  
DC Hunger Solutions  
Hawaii Children's Action Network  
Speaks!  
NH Hunger Solutions  
Massachusetts Food System  
Collaborative  
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute  
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice  
Center  
Feeding the Gulf Coast  
Empower Missouri  
Utahns Against Hunger  
Alaska Food Policy Council

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### **Local Organizations**

Unforgettable Bakery  
Greater Chicago Food Depository

Hammond Baptist Schools; Hammond  
Baptist Schools Cafeteria  
Freeman Elementary

Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public Schools  
St Martin Parish School Board  
West Jefferson School District  
Kentwood Public Schools  
Boonville MS; Warrick Co School Corp  
City of New Haven, CT  
Red Bluff HS; Red Bluff Joint Union High  
School District  
Barr Reeve Community Schools; Barr-  
Reeve Com Schools Inc  
Minidoka County Joint SD 331; Minidoka  
School District  
BERGMAN SCHOOL; Bergman SD  
South Milwaukee SD  
Alexander 2; Alexander Public School  
Paris Union SD 95  
Johnston County Schools  
San Francisco School Unified district  
MSD Lawrence Township  
Saint Benedict Cathedral School  
Liberty County SD  
El Dorado SD  
West De Pere Intermediate School  
MVAOCOU School  
Flat Rock Middle School  
Ware County Board of Education  
Mount Baker School District  
Whitesburg Elementary  
Hendersonville Middle School  
Breckenridge Community Schools  
Star City School  
Northeast ISD  
Nadaburg Unified School District  
St Louis Park Schools  
St Louis Park ISD 283  
Monroe County Community School  
Corporation

South Madison Community School  
Corporation  
Shawnee HS  
Canyons SD  
Alsup ES; School  
Woodridge Local Schools  
MCSD Food/Nutrition Dept.; Muscatine  
Community SD  
Richmond County Schools; Scotland  
County Schools  
Athens City Schools; Athens City SD  
Clear Creek-Amana Comm SD; Clear  
Creek Amana Community School District  
Emmetsburg Community School  
Riverside Community Schools  
Bennett Comm SD; Bennett CSD  
St. Joseph Catholic School  
Spencer Sacred Heart School  
Oak Park & River Forest High School D200  
Ellendale 40; Ellendale Public School  
Osage Community Schools  
Emery County School District  
Acero Charter Schools  
Iowa City Community SD; Iowa City  
Schools  
Pisanick Partners LLC  
ECPPS; Pasquotank County HS  
Little Rock School District  
Sheep-Harney ES  
MSD Perry Township  
Grand Blanc Academy  
ECPPS  
ecpps schools; Northside ES  
ECPPS Public Schools; Northside ES  
H L Trigg Community; School Nutrition  
Hammond Baptist Schools  
River Road MS; state  
SSUMC Community Market

Freeman School District  
San Isidro ISD; Zapata County ISD  
Liberty Apple Orchard, Inc.  
Hammond Baptist Grade School  
Loup City HS; Loup City Public Schools  
San Francisco USD  
Freeman School District  
Freeman School District  
Freeman School District  
Freeman High School  
Fayette County Public Schools,  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Vermont Farm and Forest School  
ECPPS  
Decatur County SD  
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools  
Hempfield High School; Hempfield SD  
Warrick county schools  
Region 8 ESC Food Purchasing  
Cooperative; Region VIII ESC  
Wichita USD  
Gregory-Portland ISD  
Chesterfield County Schools  
St. Michael Albertville School District  
#885  
Woodridge School District 68  
Phoenix CSD  
Harmony ISD  
Tucson USD  
Butte County Local Food Network  
Granite SD  
Sierra Harvest  
ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC  
CHURCH  
Wellington Exempted Village SD  
Verdigre Public School; Verdigre Public  
Schools

Sau#16 Kensington and East Kingston,  
NH  
West Sonoma County Union High School  
District  
Urban Seeds  
Saint Thomas More School  
Coppell ISD  
Ritenour Warehouse  
Lansing Central School; Lansing CSD  
Acalanes Union HSD; Acalanes Union  
iHigh School district  
Maryhurst Inc  
Astoria School District  
Trinity Lutheran School  
LaPorte Community School Corporation  
New Hope-Solebury SD  
Hamburg CSD  
Healthy Eating Active Living - Food  
System Partners (HEAL-FSP)  
Coupeville School District  
Baltimore County Public Schools  
Healthy Eating Active Living - Food  
System Partners (HEAL-FSP)  
Spring Branch ISD  
Upper Moreland School District; Upper  
Moreland Township SD  
Norfolk City PS  
Leineweber  
Student Nutrition Services, SFUSD  
n/a  
Solvera Healthcare Center, Inc  
Peoria Area Food Bank  
Acadeny of Warren  
Wallenpaupack High School  
Hollydale Elem Cobb County SD  
Support FHPS Action  
School Nutrtrion  
Michigan League for Public Policy

Jeff Davis HIGH SCHOOL KITCHEN; Jeff Davis HS  
Rockdale Career Academy  
Xavier Catholic Schools  
Hall County School Nutrition; Sardis ES  
Essex Group Management  
Sebago ES  
Monson PS  
NW Indiana Food Council  
School City of Hammond  
Whitsons Food  
SAU 39: Amherst, Mont Vernon, Souhegan Cooperative School District  
EVSC; Fairlawn ES  
Capistrano Unified School District Food & Nutrition  
HSCSD#1 TMS  
Valley Food Partnership  
Experimental Station  
Vadnais Heights Community Action Network  
St Clair County RESA; St. Clair County RESA  
Brantley County School Nutrition; Brantley County SD  
Hawkins county schools  
Retired CN Dir6  
Ovid-Elsie Area School  
Enterprise City SD  
Bowling Green ISD  
Oakland Schools  
RE1ValleySchoolDistrict  
Rockdale County School District  
Russell County Public Schools  
Salmon River Central School  
Valparaiso Community Schools  
Gwinnett County SD; Gwinnett County SNP

Elsie Rogers ES; Penn Harris Madison School Corporation - Food Service  
Santaluces HS  
Alpha Primary School; Hamblen County Diocese of Shreveport  
Jenison & Hudsonville Schools  
Hall County School Nutrition  
La Center; La Center Schools  
Nebo SD  
Union county school nutrition  
Carroll County School Nutrition; Carroll County SD  
Dexter ES; EVSC  
Coffee County BOE; Coffee County school nutrion  
Manor ISD  
ISD 877 BHM Schools  
Mobridge-Pollock School District 62-6  
Middleton SD  
Freeman School District; Pullman  
Muscatine Community SD; Muscatine CSD  
Christian County Public Schools  
Brooklyn Food Pantry  
North Powder Charter School  
Placerville USD  
Isaiah 58 Ministries  
Middlebury Community Schools  
Countryside Academy  
Countryside Charter School  
South Haven Public Schools  
Bibb County Schools, Macon, Ga  
Trenton Special SD  
Grow Portland  
Bondurant community School  
Seton Catholic School  
Bondurant-Farrar CSD  
Grinnell Farm To Table

Aquin Catholic Elementary School  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts  
Partridge Creek Farm  
Colville School District  
Jolly Greens LLC  
Capitol Reg Educ Council  
RE-1 Valley School District Food Service;  
Valley Re-1  
Belmont Klemme Community School  
District  
Springfield City Schools  
Adams 14 SD  
Adams County District 14 Schools  
Davenport Community Schools  
Lake Valley Elementary School  
Papillion La Vista Community Schools  
Lincoln County BOE  
La Morra  
Good Luck Hospitality  
Little Blue Bakehouse  
ZZQ  
Breitung Township Schools  
Mesa Public Schools  
Warrick County School Corp  
Trimble County School Nutrition  
Tucson USD  
Douglas County Schools  
Jenison PS  
Yuma ESD  
Winder-Barrow HS  
Marysville SD  
Island Lake ES  
Providence Hall Charter School  
School Way Cafe; Volusia County Schools  
Cobb County SD  
Onalaska Schools; Onalaska SD  
Butler HS; Central Office (SNP)

Rockwood School District  
St. Joseph Community School  
Grinnell-Newburg Community School  
District  
Mr. Tuna  
Mid-Shore Meals til Monday  
We Are Mighty Fine  
Concrete HS; Concrete School district  
MidShore Meals til Monday  
Mister Mao  
REAP Food Group  
Belle Plaine Community Schools  
Māla'ai: The Culinary Garden of Waimea  
Middle School  
Zingermans Roadhouse  
YUCA'S  
Nixta Tortilleria  
Juniper Restaurant LLC  
Chai Pani Restaurant Group  
Feed Louisville  
Soul & Smoke  
Mission Chinese Food  
Jitlada Thai Restaurant  
Grappolo Food and Wine School  
Chef Plana  
Coffee By Design  
Prairie Grass Cafe  
Mita's  
Black pig  
Crispy Gai  
Botanist and Barrel  
Heirloom Food Group  
EcoChef Culinary  
Soul & Smoke  
Rolling Harvest Food Rescue  
Oppenheim Consulting, LLC  
Open Arms Care Center  
St Luke's Food Pantry



Abby's Food Court  
Atlanta Veg Week  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange  
County  
The People First Food Pantry  
United Way of Pierce County  
Something Good in the World  
Childhood Obesity Initiative  
Heaven's Windows  
Clarinda Community Schools  
Dominican Sisters of Houston  
Albany City USD  
Granbury ISD  
Lake County SD  
Land to Learn  
St Vincent dePaul Bishop Griffin Resourcr  
Center  
Early Care and Learning Partnership  
SDVP FITCHBURG & St Joseph's church  
AIDS Project Worcester  
Ginny's Helping Hand, Inc.  
St. Anthony's Food Pantry, Worcester MA  
Wachusett Food Panry  
Ruth's Harvest Pantry  
Southbridge Food Share  
Bread Line  
Southeast Alaska Food Bank  
Just Harvest  
Worcester County Food Bank  
Five Palms Elementary Cafeteria  
Windermere HS  
Wauka Mountain ES  
Vidalia City Schools; Vidalia City SD  
Caldwell County Schools  
Antioch Unified School District